



State of Washington

## **DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE**

Mailing Address: 600 Capitol Way N - Olympia, Washington 98501-1091 - (360) 902-2200, TDD (360) 902-2207  
Main Office location: Natural Resources Building - 1111 Washington Street SE - Olympia, WA

### **DETERMINATION OF NONSIGNIFICANCE (DNS)**

**Name of Proposal:** SCOTCH CREEK CULVERT REMOVAL, POND CREATION, RIPARIAN RESTORATION PROJECT

#### **Description of Proposal:**

##### Overall Project Description:

The project area lies within the borders of the WDFW Scotch Creek Wildlife Area northwest of Omak WA. During previous farming activities, a culvert was set in Scotch Cr. to provide access between fields. The need for this access no longer exists and it is proposed to remove the culvert and restore the nearby riparian zone. In addition an area adjacent and to the north of the creek which was previously an agricultural field is to be re-contoured to create an upland pond. The purpose of constructing the pond is twofold. The primary purpose is to provide critical habitat for the protected upland species living within the Wildlife Area. As a secondary function, the pond will provide a stable source for the use of the existing water right, currently used to irrigate the riparian planting existing just downstream of the site.

##### Proposed Description of Activities:

The work will begin by grubbing the pasture grasses from the pond area and from the area immediately adjacent to the existing culvert. A small pond will be excavated upland of the creek in the area shown (see drawings). The pond will be a shallow pond (approx. 6') with an overall footprint of .040 acres. A water surface control structure will be installed to maintain desired water levels, and also provide an intake point for the irrigation system. The pond will be contoured to fit aesthetically with adjacent ground. Topsoil from the original excavation will be set aside and spread over the finished pond berm. The graded surfaces will be replanted with both woody plants and native grasses.

The small diameter culvert that is in place in Scotch Creek is failing and creates a potential barrier to fish passage. The culvert and the fill will be removed. The adjacent slopes shall be regarded to an appropriate geometry. Upon completion of the disturbance, the area will be planted with both woody vegetation and native grasses.

The long term plan near the site also includes installing a gravity fish screen, inserted in the existing irrigation ditch that feeds the pond from Scotch Creek. A pipe will be installed to connect the ditch and the water diverted from Scotch Creek to the proposed pond. The irrigation water needed for the area will be pumped from the created pond.

The specific project components are:

1. Construct a 0.4 acre habitat enhancement/irrigation pond with inlet and outlet structures.
2. Connect the new pond to an existing irrigation ditch by installing a water inlet control structure in the existing ditch and connecting this structure to the new pond with a 12 inch PVC pipe.
3. Install a stream isolation system in Scotch Creek to divert water around the work area and prevent turbidity impacts to aquatic resources and prevent fish from entering the work area.
4. Remove existing 30 inch culvert from Scotch Creek and associated fill.
5. Reslope the creek bank in the culvert vicinity to restore to an appropriate geometry matching existing stream bank conditions in this reach (approximately 2:1).
6. Install an erosion control rock pad at the base of the overflow pipe from the new pond.
7. Remove stream isolation measures.
8. Perform plantings of native vegetation along the stream bank (riparian buffer) and the pond. Seed disturbed soils with native grass mix.

**Proponent/Applicant:** Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife  
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**Location of Proposal, including street, if any:** WDFW Scotch Creek Wildlife Area, 1168 Conconully Road, Okanogan, Washington, Okanogan County; Section 22, Township 35 North, Range 25 East WM

**Lead Agency:** Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)

WDFW has determined that this proposal will likely not have a significant adverse impact on the environment. Therefore, state law<sup>1</sup> does not require an environmental impact statement (EIS). WDFW made this determination of nonsignificance (DNS) after we reviewed the environmental checklist and other information on file with us.

We issued this DNS according to state rules.<sup>2</sup> We will **not act on this proposal for 14 days** from the date we issued the DNS. Agencies, affected tribes, and members of the public are invited to comment on this proposal or DNS. We must receive your comments within 14 days of the date of this letter. This means we must receive your comments by **April 26, 2013**.

**Method of Comment:**

The following procedures shall govern the method to comment on agency SEPA proposals. Comments received through these procedures are part of the official SEPA record for this proposal.

You can submit your comments any one of the following ways:

- Email to [SEPAdesk2@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:SEPAdesk2@dfw.wa.gov)
- Online at the WDFW SEPA website comment link at: <http://wdfw.wa.gov/licensing/sepa/>
- Fax to (360) 902-2946;
- Mail to the address below.

**Responsible Official:** Bob Zeigler

**Position/Title:** SEPA/NEPA Coordinator, WDFW Regulatory Services Section

**Address:** 600 Capitol Way North, Olympia, WA 98501-1091

After the comment period closes, applicants may view the updated status of this proposal on the WDFW SEPA website: <http://wdfw.wa.gov/licensing/sepa/> Once the status is posted as final, applicants and permittees may take action on the proposal. When a proposal is modified or withdrawn, notice will be given in accordance with state law.<sup>1</sup>

If you have questions about this DNS or the details of the proposal, contact Bob Zeigler at the address, e-mail, or fax number above; you can also call him at (360) 902-2578.

**DATE OF ISSUE:** April 11, 2013

**SIGNATURE:**



Footnotes

1. RCW 43.21C.030(2)(c)
2. WAC 197-11-340(2).

SEPA Log Number: 13 -034. dns